

Claims:

What is claimed is:

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1. A fiber blend for use in protective apparel, comprising:

- (i) amorphous meta-aramid fiber,
- (ii) crystallized meta-aramid fiber, and
- (iii) flame retardant cellulosic fiber.

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2. The fiber blend of claim 1 additionally comprising para-aramid fiber.

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3. The fiber blend of claim 1 additionally comprising antistatic fiber.

4. The fiber blend of claim 1 wherein the crystallized meta-aramid fiber is pigmented, dyed, or colored.

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5. A fabric comprising the fiber blend of claim 1.

6. A protective article comprising the fiber blend of claim 1.

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7. A fabric for use in protective apparel, comprising:

- (i) a first yarn comprising amorphous meta-aramid fiber and flame retardant cellulosic fiber, and
- (ii) a second yarn comprising crystallized meta-aramid fiber and flame retardant cellulosic fiber.

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8. The fabric of claim 7 also containing para-aramid fiber.

9. The fabric of claim 7 also containing antistatic fiber.

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10. The fabric of claim 7 wherein the yarns of crystallized meta-aramid fiber are pigmented, dyed, or colored.

11. The fabric of claim 7 wherein the yarns comprising amorphous meta-aramid fiber are present transverse to the yarns comprising crystallized meta-aramid fiber.

5 12. The fabric of claim 11 wherein the yarns of crystallized meta-aramid fiber are pigmented, dyed, or colored.

13. A protective article comprising the fabric of claim 11.

10 14. A process for making a fabric for protective apparel, comprising:

a) incorporating into a fabric a blend of fibers comprising

- 15 (i) amorphous meta-aramid fiber,
(ii) crystallized meta-aramid fiber that is pigmented, dyed, or colored, and
(iii) flame retardant cellulosic fiber;

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b) dyeing the cellulosic fiber in the fabric.

25 15. The process of claim 14 wherein the meta-aramid fiber is also dyed.

16. The process of claim 15 wherein a dye assist agent is used in the dyeing.

30 17. A process for making a fabric for protective apparel, comprising:

a) incorporating in a fabric

- 35 (i) a first yarn, comprising amorphous meta-aramid fiber and flame retardant cellulosic fiber, and

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- (ii) a second yarn, comprising crystallized meta-aramid fiber that is pigmented, dyed, or colored and flame retardant cellulosic fiber, said first yarn being transverse the second yarn, and
- b) dyeing the cellulosic fiber in the fabric.

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18. The process of claim 17 wherein the meta-aramid fiber is also dyed.

19. The process of claim 18 wherein a dye assist agent is used in the dyeing.